

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 04120 140748Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 MED-02 SY-05
FS-01 ABF-01 AID-05 STE-01 EB-08 WRDE-00 OCL-00
/052 W

-----127911 150247Z /64

R 131300Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6481
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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MONROVIA FOR ATO, NAIROBI ALSO FOR RCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, AFSP, ACOM, AMED, TZ
SUBJECT: IMPENDING SUSPENSION OF AIR LINK BETWEEN
KENYA AND TANZANIA

REF: (A) DAR ES SALAAM 3659 (NOTAL), (B) NAIROBI 12907 (NOTAL),
(C) DAR ES SALAAM 4006 (NOTAL), (D) STATE 235199 (NOTAL)

1. REF A ALERTED DEPARTMENT TO SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF MISSION
OPERATIONS IN EVENT KENYA SUSPENDS AIR TRAFFIC BETWEEN KENYA AND
TANZANIA. AS INDICATED REF B, RESULT OF KENYAN ORDER WILL MEAN
THAT AFTER 1 NOVEMBER IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO TRAVEL DIRECT BY
AIR BETWEEN KENYA AND TANZANIA. AS NOTED REF C, IT APPEARS
NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES WILL MAINTAIN SERVICE BETWEEN
DAR ES SALAAM AND EUROPE. THE MAJOR PROBLEM FACING US CONCERNS
MEDICAL EVACUATION. IN PARAGRAPHS BELOW EMBASSY PRESENTS AN
INTERIM REPORT ON ITS CURRENT THINKING ON HOW BEST TO MEET ITS
SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS, ON ASSUMPTION KENYAN ORDER WILL GO INTO
EFFECT ON 1 NOVEMBER. POST REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS.

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2. MEDICAL. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, NAIROBI REMAINS ONLY
PRACTICAL POINT, SHORT OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WITH ADEQUATE
MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR BOTH EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND FOR BASIC
MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE. ONE OPTION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY IN
EMERGENCY WOULD INVOLVE REQUEST TO FLYING DOCTORS, BASED IN NAIROBI,
TO SEND AIRCRAFT TO DAR. THIS SERVICE HAS NOT BEEN UTILIZED BY

EMBASSY BUT WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THE PLANES ARE AVAILABLE AND CAN ENTER TANZANIA ON SHORT NOTICE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. FOR OTHER MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS: A) SEND PEOPLE TO NAIROBI BY AIR VIA LUSAKA OR OTHER INTERCHANGE POINT; AND B) SEND PEOPLE TO NAIROBI BY LAND (DAY AND A HALF JOURNEY). WE HAVE ALREADY RAISED WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DESIREABILITY OF REVISING BORDER PERMIT RULES, WHICH CURRENTLY REQUIRE REQUEST ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE, TO ALLOW TIMELY CROSSING OF LAND BORDER ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. TO DATE GOT HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING ON REVISING RULES. ALL OF ABOVE POSSIBILITIES ARE LESS THAN SATISFACTORY FROM VIEWPOINT OF SPEEDY MEDICAL ATTENTION, RELIABILITY, COMFORT OF TRAVELER, AND COSTS TO USG. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS.

3. DIPLOMATIC COURIER. ASSUME COURIER ROUTES WILL BE AMENDED BY FRANKFURT TO ALLOW CONTINUATION OF ONCE WEEKLY SERVICE TO DAR.

4. DIPLOMATIC POUCHES AND OTHER CARGO. AS NAIROBI WILL NO LONGER BE INTERCHANGE POINT FOR MAIL AND OTHER CARGO, ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL ARRANGE INTERCHANGE POINT IN EUROPE. (AS NOTED REF C, FUTURE OF PANAM FLIGHT INTO DAR IS UNCERTAIN. WE ARE NOT COUNTING ON IT. STATE 235199 (NOTAL) ALREADY ESTABLISHED NEW MAIL POUCH ROUTES. SURFACE/AIR POUCHES DESTINED FOR DAT AND ZANZIBAR CAN NO LONGER BE GROUPED WITH OTHERS AND SENT TO NAIROBI FOR BREAK-DOWN AND DISPATCH. WE REALIZE THAT COST TO USG OF THIS SEPARATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERVICE MAY INCREASE. HOWEVER, WE WISH POINT OUT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT EMBASSY BENEFIT FROM RELIABLE SURFACE/AIR POUCH SERVICE.

5. TDY COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANCE. TDY AND OTHER OFFICIAL TRAVELERS WILL HAVE TO ADJUST ROUTES TO APPROACH DAR FROM POINTS OTHER THAN NAIROBI. ASIDE FROM EUROPE, MOST ACCESSIBLE SERVICE WILL PROBABLY BE FROM LUSAKA, BLANTYRE AND ADDIS ABABA

6. POST DEPENDENCE ON NAIROBI FOR REGIONAL PROGRAMS--RSO, RMO, RCO, RBFO--WILL BE DIFFICULT WITH NEW FLIGHT REQUIREMENTS.

REAL CONCERN IS WITH LENGTHENED PIPELINE ON B&F MATTERS. POST MAY REQUEST PERMISSION TO GO RFC PARIS DIRECT ON CERTAIN FINANCIAL MATTERS. USAID MISSION DEPENDS REGULARLY ON ASSISTANCE FROM REDSO OFFICE IN NAIROBI. REDSO TRAVELERS WILL ALSO HAVE TO REACH DAR INDIRECTLY BY AIR OR, IF GOT PERMITS, BY LAND.

7. GENERAL SUPPLIES. ADDITIONALLY, US MISSION DEPENDENCE ON NAIROBI FOR LOCAL PURCHASES WILL UNDERGO CHANGE PRESUMABLY WITH INITIATION OF A MONTHLY CONSOLIDATION TRUCK RUN IF GOT GIVES PERMISSION.

SPAIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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